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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,289	11/17/2003	Brandon A. Grooters	P1067US01	4438
32709	7590	10/05/2006	EXAMINER	
SUITER SWANTZ PC LLC 14301 FNB PARKWAY SUITE 220 OMAHA, NE 68154-5299			KANG, PAUL H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2144	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/715,289	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GROOTERS ET AL	
	<b>Examiner</b> Paul H. Kang	<b>Art Unit</b> 2144	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/17/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9, 12-15, 17-23, 25-29, 31-35, 38-41, 43-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gittens et al., US Pat. No. 5,961,651 in view of Takagi et al., US Pat. No. 5,768,614.

3. As to claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 13, 15, 23, 29, 35, 39, and 41, Gittens discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Gittens discloses an automatic information handling and notification system comprising:

*a memory containing a program of instructions (see Fig. 1, memory 23) including:*

*two or more message source modules for detecting an event occurring in at least two of a first application, a second application and a device and generating a message containing selected information about the event (multiple message sources 44, see fig. 3 and col. 4, line 48 – col. 5, line 42);*

*a message interceptor module for intercepting the message (Notify module 40 intercepts the message, see fig. 3 and col. 4, line 48 – col. 5, line 42); and*

*a message categorizing engine module for receiving the message from the message interceptor module and providing a notification of the event* (Notify module 40 generates a message for the user, see fig. 3 and col. 4, line 48 – col. 5, line 42),

*a processor for running said program of instructions* (see col. 3, line 58 – col. 4, line 16).

However, Gittens does not specifically disclose *a user interface for communicating the notification of the event to the user wherein the message is communicated via a single integrated user interface*. Takagi discloses a system to detect network events and display the events to the user.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated a user interface of Takagi into the notification system of Gittens in order to efficiently display multiple messages to the user.

4. The apparatus and method claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 15, 23, 29, 35, 39, and 41 are similar to the information handling system of claim 3 and have similar limitations; therefore, 1, 2, 9, 13, 15, 23, 29, 35, 39, and 41 are rejected under the same rationale.

5. As to claims 4 and 5, Gittens-Takagi discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Gittens-Takagi does not specifically disclose messages formatted to in industry standard format, such as MAPI or TAPI compliant messages.

It is common knowledge in the prior art to use MAPI or TAPI application programming interfaces in the analogous art of software programming for the purpose of standardizing and facilitating transfer and access of data.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated MAPI or TAPI compliant messages into the notification system of Gittens-Takagi in order to increase system efficiency and compatibility by making it compatible with existing data processing systems.

6. As to claims 6, 7 and 8, Gittens-Takagi discloses categorizing various messages into their respective queues for storage and transfer to user (see Gittens, col. 5, line 7 – col. 6, line 24).

7. As to claims 12, 14, 17-22, 25-28, 31-34, 38, 40, 43-48, Gittens-Takagi discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However Gittens-Takagi does not specifically disclose *displaying an icon within the user interface, the icon comprising a graphical representation of the event;*

a banner containing the notification message; and

accepting user inputs by selecting/deleting the GUI objects.

It is well known in the GUI art to use icons or banners to provide graphical representation of objects. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of icons and banners comprising graphical representations of the event in the notification system of Gittens-Takagi for the purpose of improving user-friendliness of the interface.

***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H. Kang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
**PAUL H. KANG**  
**PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER**